

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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TAGS: PARM US UK UR
SUBJECT: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: NSS WORKING GROUP MEETINGS
AUGUST 15 AND 16 -- DISCUSSION OF ARTICLE I OF SEPARATE
VERIFICATION AGREEMENT

CTB MESSAGE NO.300

1. SUMMARY: AT THE AUGUST 15 MEETING OF THE NATIONAL
SEISMIC STATIONS WORKING GROUP, THE DELS CONTINUED THE
DISCUSSION, BEGUN AT THE AUGUST 11 MEETING, OF THE
AUGUST 8 US ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT OF ARTICLE I OF THE
SEPARATE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT. AT THE AUGUST 16 MEET-
ING, FINCH (US) PRESENTED A BRACKETED DRAFT COMPOSITE TEXT
OF THE ARTICLE, REFLECTING US DEL'S UNDERSTANDING OF US
AND SOVIET POSITIONS. TARASOV (USSR) STATED AGREEMENT
IN PRINCIPLE WITH SOME PARTS OF THE DRAFT, BUT HE RESERVED
THE SOVIET POSITION ON OTHER IMPORTANT PARTS AND INDICATED
THAT THE SOVIET DEL WOULD NEED MORE TIME TO STUDY THE
DRAFT. WE ALSO TABLED REVISED TEXT FOR TWO PARAGRAPHS

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OF OUR MAY 8 ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT OF ARTICLE I (ON NSS) OF
THE TECHNICAL ANNEX. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE AUGUST 15 MEETING OF THE NSS WORKING GROUP,
FINCH CONTINUED THE PROCESS, BEGUN AT AUGUST 11 MEETING
(CTB 295), OF EXPLAINING US THINKING AND ANSWERING SOVIET
AND UK QUESTIONS IN THE COURSE OF A PARAGRAPH-BY-PARAGRAPH

REVIEW OF OUR AUGUST 8 ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT OF ARTICLE I OF THE SEPARATE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT (CTB 291). QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED ON PARAGRAPHS 4 - 7 OF THE ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT, WITH FINCH FURTHER EXPLAINING OUR CONCEPT OF TWO PHASES IN THE OPERATION OF EACH STATION, RATHER THAN TWO STAGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT. HE ALSO RAISED THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME SITES DESIGNATED FOR NSS WOULD HAVE NO EXISTING STATIONS AT THE TIME OF ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE AGREEMENT. HE OBSERVED THAT FOR THESE SITES NO DATA WOULD BE EXCHANGED UNTIL THE IMPROVED SEISMIC EQUIPMENT BECAME OPERATIONAL, AND SOME REVISION OF PARAGRAPH 4 MIGHT BE NEEDED TO REFLECT THIS.

3. AT THE END OF THE MEETING, FINCH PROPOSED THAT THE NSS WORKING GROUP CONSIDER WHETHER IT WOULD BE FEASIBLE TO PREPARE A BRACKETED COMPOSITE TEXT OF THE ARTICLE PRIOR TO THE END OF THE WEEK. HE RECOGNIZED THAT TIME WAS SHORT. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE WORKING GROUP MEET AGAIN ON AUGUST 16 AND 17 FOR THIS PURPOSE, AND OFFERED TO PRESENT A DRAFT BRACKETED COMPOSITE TEXT AT THE AUGUST 16 MEETING. THE SOVIET AND UK DELEGATIONS AGREED TO THIS PROPOSAL.

4. AT THE AUGUST 16 MEETING, FINCH TABLED THE US DELEGATION'S BRACKETED DRAFT COMPOSITE TEXT OF THE NSS ARTICLE OF THE SEPARATE AGREEMENT, PREPARED ON THE BASIS OF OUR AUGUST 8 TEXT, THE SOVIET AUGUST 1 TEXT, AND WORKING SECRET

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GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON AUGUST 11 AND 15. FINCH ALSO TABLED REVISED US ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT OF PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2.A(1)(G) OF ARTICLE I OF THE TECHNICAL ANNEX (CTB 301). HE THEN DESCRIBED US THINKING IN PREPARING THE DRAFTS, AND THE DELS DISCUSSED THE BRACKETED DRAFT COMPOSITE TEXT ON A PARAGRAPH-BY-PARAGRAPH BASIS.

5. FOLLOWING THIS DETAILED REVIEW OF THIS DRAFT, TARASOV (USSR) INDICATED THAT THE SOVIET DEL COULD ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE THE PARAGRAPHS DEALING WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NSS NETWORK; THE OPERATION OF NSS STATIONS BY PERSONNEL OF THE STATE IN WHOSE TERRITORY THEY ARE LOCATED; AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES IN THE JCC. HE RESERVED THE SOVIET POSITION ON OTHER IMPORTANT SECTIONS, INCLUDING THE PARAGRAPHS DESCRIBING THE FIRST AND SECOND PHASES IN THE OPERATION OF EACH NSS. HE INDICATED THAT THE SOVIET DELEGATION WOULD NEED MORE TIME TO CONSIDER THIS DRAFT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TECHNICAL ANNEX. JOHNSON

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